



BRITISH COMPUTER HACKER ACCESSED SECRET UFO FILES

To the United States, he is a seriously dangerous man who put the nation's security at risk by committing "the biggest military computer hack of all time".

But Briton Gary McKinnon says he is just an ordinary computer nerd who wanted to find out whether aliens and UFOs exist.

During his quest, McKinnon broke into computers at the Pentagon, NASA and the Johnson Space Center as well as systems used by the US Army, Navy and Air Force.

McKinnon is now battling extradition to the USA, where, if found guilty, he faces up to 70 years in prison and fines of up to \$1.75 million. His lawyer fears he could even be sent to Guantánamo Bay.

McKinnon was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1966. His parents separated when he was six and he moved to London with his mother and stepfather, who was a bit of a UFO buff.

"He comes from Falkirk, and just outside Falkirk there's a place called Bonnybridge, which is the UFO capital of the world. When he lived there, he had a dream that he was walking around Bonnybridge seeing huge ships. He told me this and it inflamed my curiosity. He was a great science-fiction reader. So, him being my second father, I started reading science fiction, too, and doing everything he did."

When he was 15, Gary joined the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA). When he was 17, he saw the film *War Games* and he wondered: "Can you really do it? Can you really gain unauthorised access to incredibly interesting places? Surely it can't be that easy."

So, in 1995, he began to hack. He was looking for, and found time and again, network administrators in high levels of the US government and military establishments who hadn't bothered to give themselves passwords. That's how he got in. He did a few trial runs, hacking into Oxford University's network, for example, and he found the whole business "incredibly exciting".

When asked if he is brilliant, he says "No". He's just an ordinary, self-taught techie. And, he says, he was never alone. "Once you're on the network, you can do a command called NetStat—Network Status—and it lists all the connections to that machine. There were hackers from Denmark, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Thailand."

Off-planet technology

So do aliens exist? Yes, according to McKinnon.

"I found a list of officers' names," he claims, "under the heading 'Non-Terrestrial Officers'. It doesn't mean little green men.

What I think it means is 'not Earth-based'. I found a list of 'fleet-to-fleet transfers' and a list of ship names. I looked them up. They weren't US Navy ships. What I saw made me believe they have some kind of spaceship, off-planet.

"There was a group called The Disclosure Project. They published a book which had 400 expert witnesses ranging from civilian air traffic controllers, through military radar operators, right up to the chaps who were responsible for whether or not to launch nuclear missiles. They are some very credible, relied-upon people, all saying 'Yes, there is UFO technology, there's anti-gravity, there's free energy and it's extraterrestrial in origin, and we've captured spacecraft and reverse-engineered it'."

He said one NASA scientist reported that the Johnson Space Center had a facility where UFOs were airbrushed out of high-resolution satellite images. So he broke in to see for himself.

"One of these people was a NASA photographic expert, and she said that in Building Eight of Johnson Space Center they regularly airbrushed-out images of UFOs from the high-resolution satellite imaging. What she said was there, *was* there: there were folders called 'filtered' and 'unfiltered', 'processed' and 'raw', something like that.

"I got one picture out of the folder, and bearing in mind this is a 56k dial-up, so a very slow Internet connection in dial-up days, using the remote control programme I turned the colour down to 4-bit colour and the screen resolution really, really low, and even then the picture was still juddering as it came onto the screen.

"But what came onto the screen was amazing. It was a culmination of all my efforts. It was a picture of something that definitely wasn't man-made.

"It was above the Earth's hemisphere. It kind of looked like a satellite, but it was manufactured by no means I have ever seen before: there were no rivets, no seams; it was like one flawless piece of material.

"It was cigar-shaped and had geodesic domes above, below, to the left, the right and both ends of it, and although it was a low-resolution picture it was very close up.

"This thing was hanging in space, the Earth's hemisphere visible below it, and no rivets, no seams, none of the stuff associated with normal man-made manufacturing."

The hacker's downfall

Gary McKinnon was hacking in the immediate aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001, but only because he wanted to see if there was a conspiracy.

"Why did the building fall like a controlled series of explosions?" he asks. "I hate conspiracy theories, so I thought I'd find out for myself."

McKinnon strenuously denies the Justice Department's charge that he caused the "US military district of Washington" to become "inoperable". Well, once, he admits, but only once: he inadvertently pressed the wrong button and may have deleted some government files.

McKinnon was caught in November 2002. He says it was inevitable because he was "getting a bit sloppy". "I'd never have envisaged this happening to myself, but I did get a bit megalomaniacal as well. It got a bit silly. I ended up talking to people I hacked into... I'd instant-message them, using WordPad, with a bit of a political diatribe. You know, I'd leave a message on their desktop that read, 'Secret government is blah blah blah'."

McKinnon was tracked down because

he'd used his email address to download a remote access administration program.

"God knows why I used my real email address," he says. "I suppose it means I'm not a secretive, sophisticated, checking-myself-every-step-of-the-way type of hacker."

But he hints that whatever happens, he has a lot more to tell. "I can't talk about a lot of stuff that I found. It's just not the right time," he says with a smile.

The Free Gary McKinnon campaign

The next phase of his legal battle began on 10 May 2006 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

"I found a list of officers' names, under the heading 'Non-Terrestrial Officers'... What I saw made me believe they have some kind of spaceship, off-planet."

The district judge ruled that McKinnon should be recommended for extradition to the United States to face trial for hacking into sensitive computer networks and systems.

The decision now rests with the British Home Secretary, John Reid, who has three months to decide whether to approve the extradition request.

McKinnon's solicitor is proposing to appeal to the US Secretary of State and, if refused, will then appeal to the High Court for a decision to allow Gary to be tried in the UK as a British citizen.

Friends and supporters of Gary McKinnon fear he will not get a fair trial if he does end up in the USA. A blog website, <http://FreeGary.org.uk>, has been set up to support the campaign for McKinnon to be tried in the UK.

(Sources: Compiled from articles by Jon Ronson in The Guardian, UK, 9 July 2005; by Michael Holden for Reuters, 27 April 2006; by Spencer Kelly for BBC News, 5 May 2006; and by Mark Ward for BBC News, 10 May 2006)

FORMER US MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ANALYST SPEAKS OUT ON UFOs

Brian Vike, Director of HBCC UFO Research in Canada, advises he was granted permission to post the following letter in its entirety and leave in any names. Following is a slightly edited version of this letter. Ed.

I spent 12 years in the US Army—from 1973 to 1976 as an MP (military policeman) working undercover for the DST (Drug Suppression Team), CID (Criminal Investigation Division), in Germany. Basically I travelled throughout Germany, wearing civilian clothes and pretending I was a former soldier who now resided in Germany dealing narcotics. My code-names were "Porkchops" and "Frisco", depending on what part of Germany I was at.

I went after what was known as the "Khaki Mafia" that originated in Vietnam. The perpetrators recognised me because I was known to wear a black trench coat, sunglasses and dark clothes, and at the time I was sporting a beard and moustache. But before this excitement took place, I was in Ft Jackson, South Carolina, in 1974 on a training exercise.

One night, two other soldiers and I were in Columbia, South Carolina, checking out the sights, and we looked up at the sky and saw six glowing blue discs in formation. As we watched, the UFOs dispersed in erratically zig-zagging movements and disappeared quickly.

The first thing that came out of one soldier's mouth was, "Geese?" We looked at him and said, "No way!" That was my first time experiencing a UFO encounter, and it stayed with me for a long, long time.

In September 1976, I had another UFO encounter. This time I was out of the army and living with my former girlfriend, Helen Lang, in an apartment. One night she came running back inside the apartment, screaming. I asked her what was wrong. She said that a UFO was hovering 200 feet above her head. I didn't see anything.

I noticed she was hysterically crying. I drove her to the Sacramento Sheriff's Department and they had her use their phone to dial an 800 number to call Dr Allen Hynek of the Chicago, Illinois, Bureau of UFO Investigations.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

Dr Hynek sent some forms to fill out, so she could describe what she had seen. Dr Hynek later called me and asked what I had been doing. I told him I'd been watching Dick Van Dyke's *The Comic* on TV. He asked what happened when Helen was screaming outside. I said the TV went on the blink; it displayed static and I was trying to fix it when I heard her screaming. He told me that when UFOs hover nearby, they cause disturbances in car engines, TVs and radios; this was a normal occurrence.

Later I learned that two other people in Sacramento saw the same UFO in two different locations, and it was reported in the *Sacramento Bee*.

From 1979 to 1986, I was back in the US Army. This time I had joined military intelligence and I was stationed at PIC-K (Photo Interpretation Center – Korea). This time my code-name was "Hollywood" or "Joe Hollywood". I wore a black suit, now, and I was clean-cut. I kept the sunglasses, though.

My job as a 97 Bravo (intelligence analyst) was to work with image interpreters in identifying targets in North Korea and Red China, such as T-72 tanks, etc. I would create what is called a "sitmap", pinpointing targets discovered by image interpreters who studied reconnaissance aerial photographs. I would categorise certain photos.

We would go on what is called a "hot

run" from Yongsan Barracks, Seoul, to Osan Air Force Base. The vehicle would display a placard that indicated that the vehicle could not be stopped for any reason. There was a combination lock on the trunk of the vehicle and a combination lock in the suitcase inside the trunk; the driver and myself would have the combination to open the trunk and the suitcase. We would place the "hot rolls" (film) into the suitcase and head back to Seoul.

During my time as an intelligence analyst, I categorised six photos taken by reconnaissance satellites of what appeared to be UFOs. The UFOs moved of their own accord, as if they were guided by some kind of intelligence. Therefore the six photos were significant in terms of military intelligence. The photos moved up the intelligence chain from military intelligence to DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) to CIA (Central Intelligence Agency). From there, I don't know where the photos went.

While at PIC-K, I worked with Air Force Intelligence, Naval Intelligence, DIA, CIA, Marine Recon, US Army (Green Beret) Special Forces, 101st Airborne, US Army Rangers, 82nd Airborne, Delta Force, Navy SEALs. It was necessary for us to work closely with certain elite military groups.

Another strange photo I once saw was given to me to categorise. It was a photo

of an American POW in Vietnam, taken in 1981. The photo went into a metallic box with a combination lock and disappeared up the intelligence channel.

The spooks (intelligence personnel) I worked with would never discuss UFOs. Most spooks belonged to some sort of secret society; most were Freemasons, and I was a Rosicrucian.

When I departed Korea, I signed up for the 82nd "Screaming Eagles" Airborne and Special Forces training, and they were ready to send me to Ft Gordon, Georgia, and Ft Bragg, North Carolina, and I was called to do a special assignment.

I received an "H" identifier and became an army instructor. I taught the "Soviet Threat for OPFOR (Opposing Forces)". I wore a Russian uniform, ski mask and black gloves, talked with a fake Russian accent and called myself "Corporal Dowbowski".

I would instruct on the Soviet Threat, teaching the WEFT (Wings, Engine, Fuselage and Tail) on Soviet aircraft, kill zones on Soviet aircraft and land-roaming vehicles, and the use of many Soviet weapons from the AK-47 to the SVD sniper rifle, in which I was proficient.

During my time with OPFOR, I learned from intelligence circles that the Russian KGB also knew and was aware of what exactly UFOs were and where they came from.

To this day, I don't know the answers to the UFO mystery, but hopefully one day our government will disclose what it knows to the public.

Brian, you have full permission to publish my report. Those were many years ago and Helen Lang's UFO claim was fully published in the *Sacramento Bee*. There is nothing new here that wasn't published back in '76.

I still work for the government...but, where I work now is what I wouldn't want to disclose. You can disclose my previous work with the government: I have no qualms about it and most people are aware of my previous background.

(Source: HBCC UFO Research, Box 1091, Houston, BC, Canada VOJ IZO, tel [250] 845 2189, email hbccufo@telus.net; letter posted on 29 April 2006 at <http://www.hbccufo.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=4278>)



"It's still a little strange living near a volcano, but I feel a lot better since they installed the smoke detector."

